

Safe in the Land of the Free.

When bluff John Mackay stepped down the gangplank of the New York at her American pier with his stepdaughter, the Princess Colonna, on his arm and one of her children holding his hand, while behind him John Mackay, Jr., stepped down also, leading the princess' other two children, the riddle of her sudden and mysterious flight from Paris was solved. She had come home to the United States with her children and put herself under the shield of its laws, as well as under the powerful protection of her stepfather, knowing that henceforth she would be safe from the cruelty and persecution of her "noble" Italian husband.

Well, her fellow countrymen welcome her. They are glad she had the United States and John W. Mackay to come to. No wonder she was cheerful and almost gay as she set foot in her own land. Even \$175,000 a year had not been enough to pay for the title of "nobility" that she got with the person she married. She paid his gambling debts for 10 years and lived with him at Rome. But finally \$14,500 a month was not sufficient to satisfy the noble tastes of the noble Colonna, and he nagged and sulked till he got more. Her mother at one time sent the wife \$200,000 in addition to her yearly allowance. The prince became more and more ugly and yelled louder and louder for money. Then it was that he got a little surprise. He came home one fine evening and found no money, no wife, no children, only a note saying the princess had applied for a separation. The American wife had at last shown him a Yankee trick.

By the Italian laws and most of the laws in European countries the wife's fortune, her children and herself belong absolutely to her husband. As long as she staid at Rome every cent her father and mother gave her was the property of her husband. At Paris she was not much better off. The French courts decided that Colonna should be permitted to visit his children. She feared he would kidnap them, so as to make her go back to Italy, where he could still feed luxuriously on the Mackay wealth, and she concealed the children. Then the admirable French judges said that since she had disobeyed the court she had no more rights as a woman and a mother, and that she must give back the children to their dissolute, debauched father. He was their proper guardian. Nice laws, just judges, those of France!

When this decision was rendered, only one thing was left for the little American mother. Her brother helped her, and she escaped from France, turning her back forever, it is to be hoped, on her experiences as the wife of a European "nobleman." It is to be hoped also that her three children will follow the bent of the good, honest, plain ancestors on their mother's side. She is of the people, her blood untainted by the vices of a dissolute, gambling nobility.

But we may be permitted to say that it is past understanding how, with the many terrible examples before them that "noblesse" does not "oblige," American girls will continue to sell themselves to low down European beggars with a handle to their names. In the course of a couple of centuries perhaps our girls may discover that the clean American gentleman who respects women is the best husband in the world.

Never Judge by Appearances.

Never before was our society so much of a "Vanity Fair." Every frog seems ambitious to swell himself to the dimensions of an ox. No wonder the frog bursts.

Trying to be somebody when you are nobody is up hill work. Leading a \$10,000 existence on a \$5,000 salary is a fruitful source of financial crime and moral suicide. A few can live in princely style, but the many must live moderately or get money by dishonorable methods.

Gaudy parlors and empty kitchens. Wives and daughters covered with costly ornaments—more diamonds (?) are worn today than all the diamond fields of a world could produce in a century, living in fine houses on fashionable streets, while husbands and fathers are driven to distraction, many of them to prison, to obtain the gold to maintain the glitter. What shifts, what sleepless nights simply that they may move in fashionable society and extract compliments and flatteries which are as hollow as they are insincere. The gaudy, tinsel side out, rags and starvation within! Misery magnificent! Poverty gilded! Smiles abroad, tears at home!

Appearances deceive.

And this one maxim is a standing rule—Men are not what they seem.

The Girls Won.

In a certain town a number of young women formed a "no society"—that is, they would have no intercourse with any young man who used tobacco or who was not strictly temperate. At first the young men made themselves merry over this, declaring that they could stand out as long as the girls. But these girls quietly held to their resolves, and gradually one young man after another broke from his obnoxious habit till tobacco and the wine cup were banished from the circle. MADISON C. PETERS.

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